

Message Text

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FOR CU

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC/J

SUBJECT: CULCON VIII: SYNPOSIUM GROUPS II, III, IV

REF: TOKYO 1990

1. INTERNATIONAL HOUSE HAS PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS BY THE JAPANESE COORDINATORS OF GROUP TWO, THREE AND FOUR AND REQUESTED THAT THEY BE PASSED TO RUENITZ OF THE JAPAN SOCIETY FOR THEIR U.S. COORDINATOR COUNTERPARTS.

2. SUGGESTED ISSUES FOR GROUP 2:

A. PLANNED AND ORGANIC GROWTH OF BUILT ENVIRONMENT.

A REVIEW OF THE URBANIZATION PROCESS THROUGHOUT HISTORY REVEALS TWO CONTRASTING TENDENCIES. ONE IS PLANNED GROWTH, DIRECTED BY SOME CENTRAL AGENCY; THE OTHER IS INCREMENTAL GROWTH, WHICH MIGHT BE TERMED 'ORGANIC', BOTH ARE APPARENT, THOUGH IN DIFFERENT DEGREES, IN JAPANESE CITIES. WHAT IS THE HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXT FOR THIS PHENOMENON? WHAT CONSEQUENCE DOES THIS HAVE ON THE MEANING AND VALIDITY OF THE PLANNING AND PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES? SEEN IN THIS LIGHT, WHAT IS THE FUTURE ROLE OF ARCHITECTS, PLANNERS AND THE PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL IN THE SHAPING OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT?

B. THE DOMESTICATED NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT THE MACRO-SCALE ENVIRONMENTAL
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ISSUES ARE VITAL, WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE INSTEAD

THE SUBJECT OF THE 'NATURAL' ENVIRONMENT FOUND IN METROPOLITAN AREAS. THEY RANGE FROM TINY PARKS TO FARMLANDS, COVERING A WIDE SPECTRUM OF SIZES AND FUNCTIONS. AS URBANIZATION INTENSIFIES, OUR VIEWS REGARDING THEIR VALUE ARE CHANGING. WHAT IS THE CULTURAL AND SOCIAL BACKGROUND FOR THIS CHANGING ATTITUDE? WHAT SIGNIFICANCE DOES THE RECENT TREND TOWARD ARTIFICIALLY CREATED ENVIRONMENTS, PARTICULARLY IN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, HAVE?

3. SUGGESTED ISSUES FOR GROUP 3:

REVIEWING THE THREE SUGGESTED ISSUES IN THE THIRD TOPIC OF YOUR MEMORANDUM DATED ON JANUARY 21, TSUDA FEELS THAT THE ISSUES OF GROWTH AND PRODUCTIVITY ARE CLOSELY RELATED AND NOT SEPARABLE. TSUDA WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING TWO ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED, THE ONE COVERS THE ISSUES OF LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS AND THE OTHER DEALS WITH THE ISSUES OF GROWTH AND PRODUCTIVITY TOGETHER.

A. LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

1) WHAT IS THE POSITIVE ROLE OF LABOR UNIONS IN THE CURRENT TOTAL ECONOMY? AS A POWERFUL SOCIAL GROUP, HOW DOES THE LABOR UNION PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN DEVELOPING THE TOTAL ECONOMY?

2) HOW CAN THE TWO PHASES OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS SYSTEMS, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS IN THE TOTAL ECONOMY OR INDUSTRY AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS IN BIG BUSINESS OR THEIR PLANTS, BE WELL BRIDGED?

3) DOES A WORKERS'S PARTICIPATIVE APPROACH PLAY AN EFFECTIVE ROLE IN IMPROVING INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS?

B. ECONOMIC GROWTH AND CORPORATE ACTIVITIES

1) TO MAINTAIN THE FREE MARKET ECONOMY, HOW SHOULD A FAIR RELATIONSHIP BE BUILT BETWEEN THE TOTAL ECONOMY AND BIG BUSINESS ACTIVITIES?

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2) HOW CAN ECONOMIC GROWTH, CORPORATE ACTIVITIES AND BETTER LIVES FOR THE PEOPLE BE EFFECTIVELY COMBINED TOGETHER IN THE CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY?

3) HOW SHOULD THE INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURE OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES BE ADAPTED TO ASSIST THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND TO COPE WITH

THE CREEPING PRICE INCREASES OF THEIR RESOURCE
SUPPLIES?

4. SUGGESTED ISSUES FOR GROUP 4:

A. TECHNOLOGY AND ARTS.

ONE OF THE MOST STARTLING CHANGES SINCE THE END OF
WORLD WAR II IN THE DOMAIN OF ARTS HAS BEEN THE RISE
OF NEW MEANS OF EXPRESSION PROVIDED BY TECHNOLOGY.
WE HAVE WITNESSED MANY PROOFS OF IT: LIGHT-ART,
KINETIC-ART, ELECTRONIC MUSIC, VIDEO-ART AND EVEN
COMPUTER-ART. HAVE THESE TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS
CHANGED THE NATURE OF ART AND AFFECTED OUR VALUE
JUDGMENT OF ITS FOUNDATIONS? CAN THE ARTIST RESIST
THEIR OVERHELMING POWER AND EXPRESS HIS INDIVIDUAL
PERSONALITY IN HIS WORKS? IF SO, HOW? WHAT ARE THE
CRITERIA GIVING THESE NEW FORMS OF ART VALIDITY?

B. CULTURAL HOMOGENEITY/DIVERSITY IN MASS SOCIETY.

THE TREMENDOUS DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNICATION TO-DAY,
AS SEEN IN SUCH PHENOMENA AS THE WIDE DIFFUSION OF
ART BOOKS, ART REPRODUCTIONS, RECORDS, FILMS, TV
AND RADIO AS WELL AS, MORE AND MORE FREQUENTLY
ORGANIZED EXHIBITIONS AND CONCERTS ETC, HAS BROUGHT
WITHIN THE REACH OF MULTITUDES MANY CULTURAL ACCOMPLISH-
MENTS WHICH A SHORT TIME AGO WERE PRIVILEGES OF A
MERE FEW. THIS INEVITABLY TENDS TO MAKE CULTURAL
LIFE MORE HOMOGENEOUS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. DOES IT
MEAN THAT WE ARE ENJOYING A RICHER AND FULLER LIFE
THAN BEFORE, OR THAT WE ARE LESS INVOLVED IN A TRUE
CULTURE? WHAT IS THE ROLE OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL
TRADITION IN SUCH A SITUATION?

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THESE TWO PROBLEMS ARE DEEPLY RELATED WITH EACH
OTHER. IN FACT, THEY ARE TWO FACES OF ONE AND SAME
PROBLEM: THE ROLE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF ART IN
CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY, AS CONSIDERED 1) FROM THE
POINT OF VIEW OF THE CREATIVE ARTIST AND 2) IN
HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE AND SOCIAL CONTEXT.
HODGSON

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